



**For immediate release
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**Contact: Wendy Fox
617-626-1453
Lisa Capone
617-626-1119**

SALISBURY BEACH RESTORATION WORK GETS UNDERWAY

Sand being trucked in to replenish dunes and access points

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has begun replenishing dunes in front of about a dozen ocean-front homes at Salisbury Beach deemed to be most vulnerable to damage from another severe storm.

The state-owned Salisbury Beach, in the far northeast corner of the Commonwealth, was hit hard by a strong northeaster April 15-19. Protective dunes were washed away, public access points to the beach from Atlantic Avenue were damaged, and a number of houses were determined to be at risk from further damage should another similar storm hit the area.

Last week, the Salisbury Conservation Commission gave DCR emergency certification to renourish the beach. DCR began trucking in sand from an off-site source to restore a number of beach access points and replenish dunes in front of the most vulnerable homes; the agency expects to bring in about 20,000 cubic yards of sand of equal size and color to that already on the beach. The cost of the program is estimated at about \$850,000, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) expected to reimburse the state for 75 percent of the cost.

In addition to providing direct assistance to some homeowners, DCR and other agencies of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs will provide technical assistance to property owners along the beach who would like to nourish dunes, at their own expense, to protect against erosion. A summary of rules and procedures that private property owners must follow is available at Salisbury Town Hall and at www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/coastaldunes.htm.

DCR crews also are installing snow fencing on state property to help rebuild protective barrier dunes by catching blowing and drifting sand. The agency plans to provide free snow fencing and installation instructions to beachfront residents who want to help restore dunes in front of their own homes. DCR will plant restored areas with beach grass next fall, to further stabilize the dunes.

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Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



To minimize disruption as the beach season gets underway, and allay concerns about heavy equipment on the beach at times of high recreational use, work on dune nourishment projects will occur only on weekdays. Also, work must be completed by June 20, when the Salisbury Conservation Commission's emergency certification expires.

All sand trucked in must meet approved specifications provided by DCR, all work must comply with state Department of Environmental Protection and Office of Coastal Zone Management requirements, and property owners must obtain a beach access permit from DCR.

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles pointed that the current Salisbury Beach dune nourishment work is a one-time project that takes advantage of FEMA reimbursement for damage related to the April storm. Bowles said he plans to appoint an inter-agency task force to develop a long-term strategy for protecting private lands adjacent to the beach.

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